

Message Text

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21

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IGA-01 ABF-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AGR-05

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R 261048Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2906

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FROM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, AID

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I - WHEAT

1. EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING "IRREGULARITIES" CONCERNING IMPORTATION OF VACUATORS RENTED TO SOME SHIPS CARRYING PL 480 WHEAT TO ALEXANDRIA. IN QUESTION ARE 18 MACHINES OWNED BY ADMIRALTY CORP OF NYC THAT WERE INITIALLY BROUGHT TO ALEX STARTING IN JANUARY 1974 BY STRICTLY COMMERCIAL WHEAT CARRIERS. MACHINES PASSED FROM SHIP TO SHIP (REPORTEDLY UP TO 10 TRANSFERS) BEFORE BEING HIRED FOR VANTAGE HORIZON ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE FOR CURRENT SERIES OF PL 480 WHEAT SHIPMENTS TO EGYPT IN DECEMBER 1974. HALF OF THESE MACHINES SUBSEQUENTLY RENTED TO PL 480 CARRIER ESSO HALIFAX (WHICH DOCKED 22 MARCH) AND HALF TO ANOTHER SHIP WHICH IS NOT PL 480 RELATED.

2. GOE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES CLAIM THAT THESE 18 MACHINES WERE NOT PROPERLY IMPORTED AS REQUIRED BY LOCAL REGULATION, AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE IMPOUNDED PENDING FULL INVESTIGATION.

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GATION. CONGEN OFFICERS, IN SERIES OF MEETINGS PAST

WEEK WITH GOE OFFICIALS CONCERNED, HAVE MAINTAINED THAT DISCHARGE OF PL 480 WHEAT SHIPMENTS SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF STILL UNRESOLVED INVESTIGATION. ACCORDINGLY, AGREEMENT REACHED 23 MARCH WHEREBY ADMIRALTY REP NOW IN ALEX (GERALD ROSS) ASSUMED OBLIGATION FOR ANY CUSTOMS OR OTHER FEES FOR WHICH HIS FIRM MAY BE RESPONSIBLE IN RETURN FOR INTERIM USE OF MACHINES SO THAT HE MAY FULFILL HIS EXISTING CONTRACTS.

3. RELATED TO USE OF THESE VACUVATORS IS INCLINATION OF SOME LOCAL OFFICIALS TO DATE SHIPS "CONDITION OF READINESS" FROM TIME VACUVATORS ON BOARD AND NOT FROM TIME SHIPS REPORT TO HARBORMASTER ON ARRIVAL ALEX HARBOR. SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR SHIP OWNERS. ESSO HALIFAX, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD STAND TO "LOSE" 10 DAYS WAITING TIME IN ANCHOR THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE COUNT TOWARD DUMURRAGE.
SIGNED CHASE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EQUIPMENT, LAW, PL 480 TITLE 1, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO03026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750106-0842
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750315/aaaaanak.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PL 480 TITLE I - WHEAT
TAGS: EWWT, EAID, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006